

The City of Marion, South Carolina

SWAMP FOX SCENE



A FREE monthly news magazine for
the citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City

Volume 5, Issue 8

January 2016

Happy New Year's

Happy New Year to all residents of the City of Marion! It is an honor and privilege to serve as your Mayor these past three years. I am very honored, and extremely excited, to be seated in this center seat, especially with such a hard-working, dedicated council whose sole purpose is to help move the City of Marion forward with prosperity in our spirit of teamwork and cooperation. Our future is bright with many additions to our community. I have witnessed through my tenure as mayor that teamwork, determination, and communication are the recipe for success.

Another vital part of our community is our dedicated employees, our public safety personnel, and especially our generous volunteers who continue to serve selflessly and tirelessly on our boards and committees. But more importantly to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ whom has blessed our great City. Please continue to pray with me for our great city as we continually move forward. You are the backbone of our community, and you all deserve our acknowledgment and our thanks. Thank you.

Thanks and prayers to our law enforcement, fire, and rescue squad personnel, and the county emergency management team, who continually put their lives on the line to protect us. We support you and we are grateful for your service. Thank you

There is truly no greater honor for a hometown boy to be mayor of the community he knows and loves so well.

Have a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year!
Mayor Bobby L. Davis

Filing opens January 14th for Board of Education elections;

The Board of Election for seats in Districts 2, 6 and 7 will be held on Tuesday, April 12th. The state's new Voter ID law requires that each voter has an identification card with a photograph of the voter on it. Filing for candidates begins Thursday, Jan. 14th at noon and closes on Friday, Feb. 12th at noon. The last day to register to vote in the April election is March 12th. To find out more about having a proper ID to vote, visit the Marion County Voter Registration and Election Commission at 137 Airport Court off East U.S. Highway 76 or call Teresa Moody at 423-8268.

Additionally, political signs may only be displayed on private property. City ordinances prohibit the placement of signs on public property, including the right of way.

Signs picked up for being improperly posted may be collected at the Marion Fire Department on Bond Street and can be claimed by candidates.



January 1st
Happy New Year
City Offices Closed; Reopen at 8:00 a.m. January 4th

January 6th
8:30 a.m. **Rise and Shine** at Bridgers Drug Store, 305 N. Main Street.

January 12th
6:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

January 17th
2:30 p.m. **Arts Council of Marion County & Reverend Roger Clark** invite you to join them Sunday at Macedonia Methodist Church, 402 N. Main St., Mullins SC. Tickets \$5.00 Lights refreshments & snacks will be provided.

January 18th
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
City Offices Closed

January 25th
6:30 p.m. **Marion Chamber of Commerce**, Annual Meeting, Woodhaven. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Dinner, Awards and Auction.



Marion Christmas Parade

The Chamber would like to thank all those who came out Saturday December 5th to the Christmas Parade. We had a beautiful day and a big

thank you to our Grand Marshall, the Marion All Star Belles, 15U. They won State and represented us well at the Dixie Youth World Series in Louisiana. Great things are happening in Marion.



Happy New Year's from the City Administrator Alan Ammons and City Hall Staff!!!

Marion Christmas Tree Lighting

Celebrating Christmas in Marion was no different this year than prior years with the decorations and lights bringing the spirit of Christmas to the trees lining Main Street. The Pre-Christmas show began with performing from Latorrey Hemingway & Tyrone Currie at 5:45 following by Justine Roberts Performing Arts Academy as we welcomed Santa Claus' arrival aboard a City of Marion Fire Truck. The Courthouse steps were lined with children from Easterling Primary School to render Christmas songs. Thousands of people crowded the street to witness this year Christmas Prelude and Tree Lighting Celebration.

Special Thanks to Morris Ward, his crews and all who worked diligently to make this year event special. Fireworks followed immediately at Withlacoochee Park.



NEED HELP?

Call City Hall, 843-423-5961, unless otherwise noted, and one of the following will be able to help you.

Mayor Bobby L. Davis, (843) 423-5961, Ext. 21
Alan Ammons, City Administrator & Building Official, Ext. 19

Pam Jones, City Clerk, Ext. 10

Patricia Brown, City Treasurer, Ext. 18

Ainsley Sanders, Administrative Assistant, Ext. 11

Elizabeth Ficik, Personnel & Purchasing Director, (843) 423-8614

Vickie J. Nichols, Grant Writing & Publicist, Ext. 22

Ann Jackson, Recreation Director, (843) 423-5410

Dewayne Tennie, Police Chief, (843) 423-8616

Chris Smith, Captain, (843) 423-8616

Cindy Barr, Captain, (843) 423-8616

Tony Flowers, Investigator, (843) 423-8616

Trey Cooper, Fire Chief, (843) 423-8602

Chris McKenzie, Assistant Fire Chief (843) 464-8602

Heather Evans, Municipal Court Clerk, (843) 423-8616

Almeta Mullins, Secretary, (843) 423-8616



Recycle your Christmas Tree!

Christmas trees can be dropped off at the Marion Fire Department on Bond Street in the parking lot. Please remove all decorations before leaving the trees. If you have any questions, please call the fire department at (843) 423-8602 or the City of Marion at (843) 423-5961. Thanks!

City has annual Arbor Day planting

The Azalea Garden Club and others in the community gathered on December 4th on the Marion Hike-Bike Trail for the annual Arbor Day Celebration. The planting of three Muskogee Crepe Myrtles were in memory of Virginia Freeman, Gert Radin, and Elise Tollison.



**Shop and Dine Local...to keep
YOUR town viable!!!**

The Swamp Fox Scene is the City of Marion's Free monthly newspaper for citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City, Marion, South Carolina. Printed by Herald Multi-forms in Dillon, city employees produce and distribute the newspaper.

The Marion Chamber and HMRA help pay printing costs.

A PDF version is available by e-mail or online. For more information about the newspaper, call Mayor Bobby L. Davis or City Administrator Alan Ammons at (843) 423-5961.

Join the
Arts Council of Marion County
&
Reverend Roger Clark

"IN THE POTTER'S HAND"

Sunday, January 17, 2016

2:30 p.m.

Macedonia Methodist Church
402 North Main Street - Mullins, SC

Tickets - \$5.00

Light Refreshments & Snacks will be provided

Reverend Clark has combined his skillful working of the clay with a passion for preaching, today's lesson from the book of Jeremiah. His creations will be available for sale.

MARION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES YARD OF THE MONTH



Corey and Jamie Craig of 104 Oakenwald Drive have been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for December 2015. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently, and add so much to our community's unique character. Mr. and Mrs. Craig will receive a gift certificate from Tru Green Nursery in recognition of this honor.



Mayor's Monthly Beautification Award

Mayor Davis presented the November Beautification Award to several individuals because of their hard work and dedication to the City of Marion. At the council meeting on November 10th, in appreciation for helping maintain the beauty of the City of Marion, the award was presented to the Azalea Garden Club.

Marion Law Enforcement Officers Gives Back



One of the many things The Marion Police Department is doing is taking an active part to reach out to the community. On November 23rd they fed over 200 senior citizens for Pre

-Thanksgiving dinner. The law enforcement officers served. Mayor Bobby L Davis, Councilmembers Odessa Gregg, Joseph Frazier and his Wife, and City Administrator Alan Ammons assisted with the seniors that were unable to move around well. Catering was by Ms. Sharon Grice.

This was the first time the police department has ever hosted an event only for senior citizens. The Chief of Police, Dewayne Tennie stated, "It's just the beginning of the department trying to help bridge the gap between law enforcement and the community."

"What's going on around the nation is not a pretty picture in law enforcement, but we here in the city of Marion are being proactive so that doesn't happen," Tennie said.

He says this is the perfect chance for seniors to see them in a different light and get to know the officers who protect them.

"Senior citizens don't get the appreciation they need. A lot of times they are forgotten during the holiday season, and a lot of them live by themselves. So this is a time for them to come out, socialize and have a good meal served by the Marion Police Department and the Chief of Police," Tennie said.

The Marion Police Department plans are to host this pre-Thanksgiving luncheon every year.



New Business Coming to Marion!!!

The City of Marion and a group of investors from Los Angeles say they have plans to reopen the building the old Marion hospital that once were the Cathedral Bible College. Mayor Bobby Davis says that 8 months ago the group of investors called with the new idea.

"When someone comes in as an investment group and they are spending their own money to invest in this. I was very excited because I knew something would happen," Mayor Davis stated.

The group is called 1108 North Main Street Marion LLC, which is the physical address of the building.

"It may be a combination, a nursing home or assisted living. They came in; they bought the building with their own money. They talked about how they wanted to help improve the City of Marion by providing at least 100 jobs."

Right now the group haven't decided on what it will be and there is no date when the project will begin.

Neighborhood Watch A Team

Contributed By: Dolly Boyer

As 2015 comes to a close, I thought I would take a moment to reflect on the accomplishments of A Team of the Neighborhood Watch. Four years after our founding in a living room on Withlacoochee Ave, we have grown to a group of approximately 50 members who are making a difference. We have forged a bond with our neighbors and law enforcement officers. We have established a relationship of respect and support with the city administration. Our neighborhood is a safer place. During these four years our boundaries have grown, we have hosted a lunch and car wash for our police department, held a fundraising yard sale, attended a training session with Florence county NHW, and hosted Marion's first National Night Out. We also aided in pressure washing the police department and had individual members feed officers on Labor Day as well as furnish sweet treats on a regular basis. Four years ago these accomplishments were unimaginable. As 2016 approaches, we must build on this strong foundation. We can do this by remaining focused, reaching out to each other and citizens who have yet to attend a meeting or event. Our goal should be a safer city, not just a safer neighborhood. Our best weapon against crime is community pride and spirit. Make a resolution to attend our next meeting and bring a friend or neighbor, become part of making Marion a safer place to live. We are our neighbor's keepers! A Team meets the first Monday of each month at 6:30 PM in the meeting room of the firehouse on East Bond St. Our next meeting is on January 4th. Hope to see you there with at least one friend or neighbor in tow!

Employee of the Month



The City of Marion recognized firefighter Chase Funderburk as its November 2015 Employee of the Month. Chase started with the City of Marion Fire Department as an Explorer when he was sixteen years old. He has been employed as a full-time engineer since September 2014. Chase also serves as a

member of the Marion Rescue Squad.

Chase works hard for the community and the fire department, and he volunteers countless hours on his days off to transport patients and respond to calls. His participation rate is one of the highest in the department. "Chase takes his position as a firefighter personally", said Chief Trey Cooper. "He takes great pride in his work and is always willing to go the extra mile".

The Mayor and Council recognized Chase Funderburk for his dedication and contributions to the City of Marion at the December 8th Council Meeting.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL RESIDENTS

Please find below **American Waste Systems' (AWS)** schedule for the upcoming holiday. We kindly request for all residents to please pull their cart to the curb the night before your service date shown below.

NEW YEARS

Friday route (01/01/16) will be picked up on **Saturday (01/02/16)**.

If you have any questions, please contact AWS at (843) 765-3390.

Have a happy, safe, and enjoyable Holiday!

Marion City Council wishes to thank everyone for their support and involvement in the governing process this year.

Happy New Year
Marion City Council

.....**GOING ON IN MARION**.....

10U All-Star Football

Our 10U All-Star Football team was ready for the SCAP Eastern District 2015 All-Star Football Tournament. On November 7th, we played Cheraw in the opening game of the tournament. Marion defeated Cheraw, with a score of 22-6. Next up for our all-stars was Lake View, again we were victorious with a score of 46-12. Third round of the playoffs put our guys against Mullins and again Marion was victorious with a score of 28-0. We were so excited to have made it this far and thrilled to be in the Championship game! We played for the Championship against Lamar. Lamar's running back proved to be too much for us and we lost. Even though these young men didn't make it to State, they had a tremendous run. We are extremely proud of each and every one of them. Marion's future in Football looks promising!



12U All-Star Football

Marion's 12U Football All-stars traveled thru the SCAP Eastern District Tournament undefeated and only scored on once. With a win over Aynor in the 1st round, Marion's next opponent was Mullins. Swamp fox boys went to work and defeated Mullins 52-0. Next game was a tough Lake City team. Again Marion was Victorious with a score 16-0. Marion advanced on to the Championship with a game that was supposed to be a very tough game for the swamp foxes but again Marion wins 52-6 over Darlington. With that win Marion advanced on to the State Championship. Marion's 12U Boys Football All-stars traveled down to Lexington SC Saturday, December 12 to play Abbeville for the Division 2 State Championship. It was a very hard fought game for both teams. Swamp foxes ran out of time and was defeated for the 1st time all season 14-12 by Abbeville. The staff of the Recreation and the City of Marion are so proud of these young men and their accomplishments. The Coaches did an excellent job having these guys ready every game.



City Rentals

We are starting a **NEW YEAR**, which means the **NEW** rental calendar is accepting reservations for Grice's, Shannon Wilkerson Gymnasium and Watsonia Recreation facilities. These facilities hold up to 150 people are equipped with warming kitchens, heating/air and restrooms. Also, Pop Dorsey Picnic Shelter located on **Green Street** for those looking for an outside event. Make sure that you get your event booked as soon as possible. So to reserve your date for that special occasion give us a call at Marion Recreation (843) 423-5410.

CDJ Aerobics

Aerobics classes are offered Monday thru Friday evening, from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. at CD Joyner. Taught by Ms. Lillie Ann Sanders, the classes are \$30 per month. For information or details, call Recreation Department at 423-5410.

Senior Aerobics at Watsonia Center

Senior Aerobics has resumed and there are still some spots for newcomers. Classes are on Monday and Thursday, from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. The instructor is Mrs. Anna Boatwright. All classes are **FREE**, but donations are appreciated to help defer cost of the class. If you haven't participated before, please come out and register at the Marion Recreation Department.

Marion Recreation Department will kick off its 2016 Basketball season in January after the holiday season. All are invited to come out games to enjoy and support these young local athletes and coaches. This year we ended up with 23 teams; an increase of 2 teams from last year. Admission for adults is \$2 and Kids 12 and under \$1. We will also have Basketball season passes available to purchase at the doors or in the office. You can get 4 season passes for \$20 or if you're in need of just one \$5 for an individual. Season Passes will get you into both home gyms for games. We are looking forward to another great basketball season.

Senior Bingo

We offer Senior Bingo the on first & third Thursday of each month from 8:30 a.m. –9:30 a.m. at Watsonia Recreation. Bingo is **FREE** of charge and we welcome newcomers to come join in on the fun. We offer prizes for the winners and refreshments for you to enjoy while playing. We do have a 2 card playing limit. Come check us out and bring some friends to join in.

Ping Pong Club

Don't forget that Marion Recreation holds a Ping Pong Club every Monday & Wednesday from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. You can come by on one of these days and freshen up on your ping pong skills, watch some games or learn how to play. For details, call 423-5410.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Each month the Mayor recognizes someone in the community for going above and beyond in helping keep Marion beautiful. You can help us recognize those deserving residents by giving us their contact information and how they are contributing. Please call Pam Jones at City Hall 843-423-5961 with your recommendations. An individual or group is chosen each month for **The Mayor's Monthly Beautification Award** And recognized at the City Council Meeting. Thank you!

Marion County Library

Mother Goose on the Loose, our infant/toddler story time for ages birth to 3 years and their parents, will be held on Thursdays 10:30 a.m. beginning January 21st. Preschool story time for ages 3 to 5 years and their parents will be held on Wednesdays 10:30 a.m. beginning January 20th.

Diann Smothers
Director
Marion County Library